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# PUBLIC WELFARE IN MISSOURI

*Mo-Welfare*

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DIVISION OF WELFARE • STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE • JEFFERSON CITY MISSOURI

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# Public Welfare in MISSOURI

“ INFORMATIONAL PAMPHLET ”

DIVISION OF WELFARE  
STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE  
Jefferson City, Missouri  
Revised November, 1963

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# FOREWORD

The Division of Welfare serves the people of Missouri through the administration of laws enacted by their elected representatives to the General Assembly.

In the interest of public understanding, the agency presents this pamphlet of general information about the scope and character of services because:

*Public Welfare is more than a check. It is a child's laugh; it is a fire burning on the hearth; it is food for the hungry; it is a roof overhead on a rainy night, a blanket for the cold; it is medical care for the ill and for those who can be saved needless suffering by preventive care; it is the services to the old, the young, and the handicapped—services which bring hope, cheer, and faith in our country; it is the very essence of belief in our fellow man through our great democratic way of life.*

Anonymous.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The concern of Missouri citizens for the welfare of the people dates to the territorial period before the state was admitted to the Union. The first law of 1807 provided for the care of dependent children by apprenticeship. The first territorial provision for the adult poor was enacted in 1815 and is still on the statutes. Section 2 of the "Bill of Rights" of the State Constitution adopted in 1945 states in part, "That all constitutional government is intended to promote the general welfare of the people. . . ." This concept is expressed by the motto on the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, "The Welfare of the People Shall be the Supreme Law."

In order to effectively carry out the legal responsibilities imposed upon the Division of Welfare (hereafter referred to as Division) an office is maintained in each county and the City of St. Louis.

The director of the Division is appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Other employees are selected under a state merit system.

The Division cooperates with the United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare as required by the Federal Social Security Act and by state law. The Division must have a federally approved plan for each of the programs financed jointly by Federal and state funds.

Basic responsibilities of the Division are set forth in the state law. In order to provide uniform and equal treatment, written policies, procedures, and rules and regulations covering the administration of the welfare programs are in effect in each county office.

In each county in the state there is a County Welfare Commission consisting of four members appointed on a bipartisan basis by the Director of the State Department of Public Health and Welfare from a list of names submitted by each county court. In each county which has a child welfare unit there is a Child Welfare Advisory Committee consisting of 12 or more members, who are appointed by the Director of the Division. The County Welfare Commission and Child Welfare Advisory Committee represent the public and serve as spokesman for the public welfare programs.

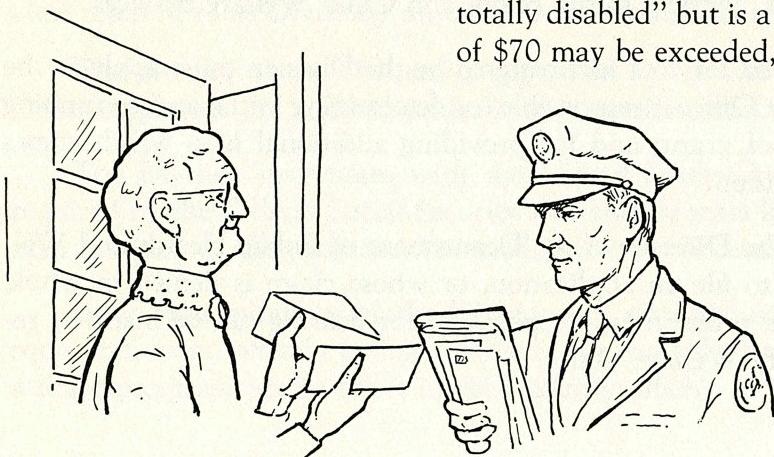
The Division is a state administered agency responsible by law for the administration of the following programs: Old Age Assistance, Aid to Dependent Children, Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled, General Relief, Aid to the Blind, Blind Pensions, Services to the Blind, and Child Welfare Services.

Persons who desire to apply for assistance or services administered by the Division must apply in the county in which they reside. The County Welfare Office is responsible for determining initial and continuing eligibility for assistance, including the amount of grant; and for providing additional help which comes within the scope of services as defined by the Division.

The law makes provision for an appeal to the Director of the Department of Public Health and Welfare by any individual who is denied the right to file an application, or whose claim is denied in whole or in part or is not acted upon with reasonable promptness. Application for hearing can be made by requesting forms for that purpose from the County Welfare Office.

## **OLD AGE ASSISTANCE**

The Old Age Assistance program, which was established in Missouri in 1935 is designed to provide assistance to needy persons 65 years of age or over who do not have sufficient financial resources for their support. It is also the purpose of this program to make available to such persons, whenever possible, social services which they may need resulting from limited income, health problems, loss of family and other personal problems. Each eligible person may receive up to \$70 a month, except that persons who are "completely bedfast and totally disabled" may receive up to \$110 a month. For the person who is not "completely bedfast and totally disabled" but is a patient in a licensed nursing home the maximum of \$70 may be exceeded, as needed, up to a total of \$80 a month.



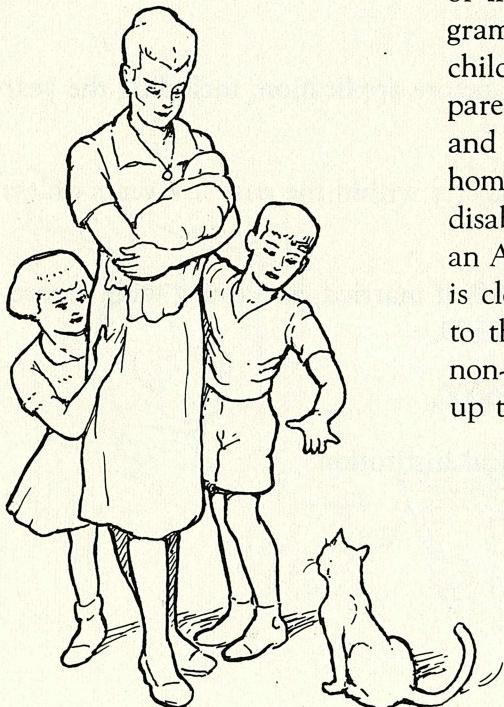
## **WHO IS ELIGIBLE?**

The person who:

- is 65 years of age or older
- is unable to earn a living and his income or resources from any source are not enough to meet basic needs
- has lived in the state for five years or more out of the nine years before application, including the year immediately prior to application
- has not given away, sold, or transferred any real or personal property within the past five years unless he received fair and valuable consideration
- if single, may own cash or securities with a value of less than \$750. If married, and living with spouse, the amount they own, individually or together, cannot exceed \$1500.
- does not own property of any kind or character totalling over \$6000.
- is not a resident of a public institution, unless it is a public medical institution.

## AID TO DEPENDENT CHILDREN

Missouri has the distinction of enacting, in 1911, the first Mothers' Aid Law in the history of the United States. This was a forerunner of the present Aid to Dependent Children program which provides assistance to children who have been deprived of support, due to the absence or incapacity of one or both parents. The primary purpose of this program is to keep families together and insure a normal family life for the children. The amount of grant may be up to \$32 a month for the needy parent or other eligible relative, \$32 a month for the first eligible child, and \$23 a month for each additional dependent child living in the same home. However, eligible persons who are completely bedfast and totally disabled may receive up to \$110 a month. A child who is removed from an ADC home by order of the Juvenile Court, because the home situation is clearly contrary to the welfare of such child, whose custody is given to the Division and is then placed in a licensed foster family home or non-profit child caring institution, may be eligible for an ADC payment up to a maximum of \$32 per month.



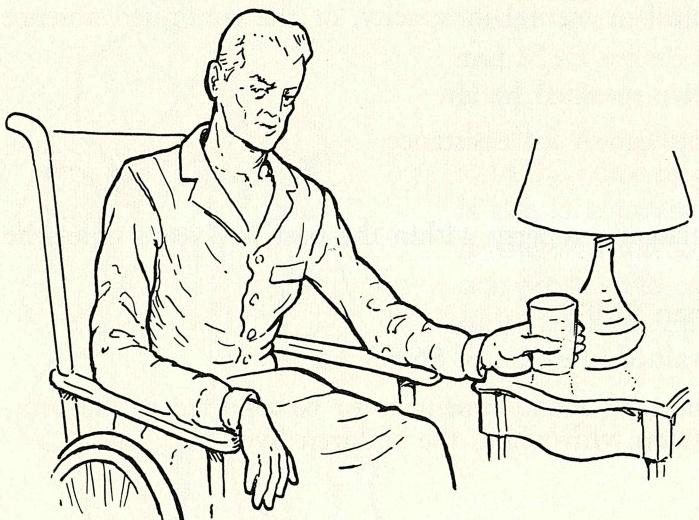
## **WHO IS ELIGIBLE?**

The child who:

- is under 18 years of age
- is in need of assistance because there is insufficient income to meet basic needs
- has lived in the state at least one year prior to application. If a child is under one year of age the relative must have lived in the state one year before birth of the child
- is regularly attending school if between the ages of 7 and 18, unless physically or mentally ill
- is deprived of support because of the death, physical or mental incapacity, or the continued absence from the home of one or both parents
- is living with one or both parents or a close relative specified by law
- is living in the home of the relative who makes application for assistance  
and whose parent(s)
- has not given away, sold, or transferred real or personal property within the past five years unless he received fair and valuable consideration
- does not own cash or securities valued at more than \$1500.
- does not own property of any kind or character valued in excess of \$6000.
- is absent from the home because of divorce, desertion, or abandonment, must be reported to the prosecuting attorney for appropriate action, by the person with whom the children live
- uses the money for the benefit of the children
- attempts to support or help support the children by accepting employment when offered, or by accepting medical care or vocational rehabilitation when needed.

## **AID TO THE PERMANENTLY AND TOTALLY DISABLED**

This program, which was established in 1951, provides assistance to needy persons who are both permanently and totally disabled. Each eligible person may receive up to \$70 a month, except that persons who are "completely bedfast and totally disabled" may receive up to \$110 a month. For the person who is not "completely bedfast and totally disabled" but is a patient in a licensed nursing home, the maximum of \$70 may be exceeded, as needed, up to a total of \$80.



## **WHO IS ELIGIBLE?**

The person who:

- is 18 years of age or older
- is unable to earn a living and his income or resources from any source are not enough to meet basic needs
- has lived in the state for one year immediately prior to application
- has not given away, sold, or transferred real or personal property within the past five years unless he received fair and valuable consideration
- if single, may own cash or securities with a value of less than \$750. If married, and living with spouse, the amount they own, individually or together, cannot exceed \$1500.
- does not have property of any kind or character totaling over \$6000.
- is not a resident of a public institution, unless it is a public medical institution
- is both permanently and totally disabled as established by medical examination
- will accept medical or healing treatment, or vocational rehabilitation and training if either treatment or training is recommended.

## **GENERAL RELIEF**

General Relief provides assistance to needy unemployable persons who cannot qualify under any other assistance program. This program is financed entirely by state funds. Each eligible person may receive up to \$65 a month, except that persons who are completely bedfast and totally disabled may receive up to \$110 a month.



## **WHO IS ELIGIBLE?**

The person or family who:

- has lived in the state one year immediately prior to the date of application
- is in need of assistance because there is insufficient income to meet basic needs
- is unable to work because of physical or mental incapacity. If any member of the family is employable this disqualifies the entire family group for this type of assistance
- has not given away, sold or transferred real or personal property within the past five years unless he received fair and valuable consideration
- does not have more cash or securities than will meet one month's budgeted need. This applies to any single member or the combined cash of all the members of a household
- does not have property of any kind or character valued in excess of \$6000. If a family applies, property for all related members of the household cannot exceed \$6000.
- is not a resident of a public institution unless it is a public medical institution
- is willing to accept available medical care, vocational training or services to enable him to return to full or part-time employment.

## AID TO THE BLIND

Established in October, 1951, Aid to the Blind is operated in Missouri concurrently with a totally state supported Blind Pension program. Through this program, the recognition of the state's responsibility to provide for the care, relief, and welfare of blind persons who are in need and who are unable to support themselves is demonstrated. Each eligible person receives \$75 a month.



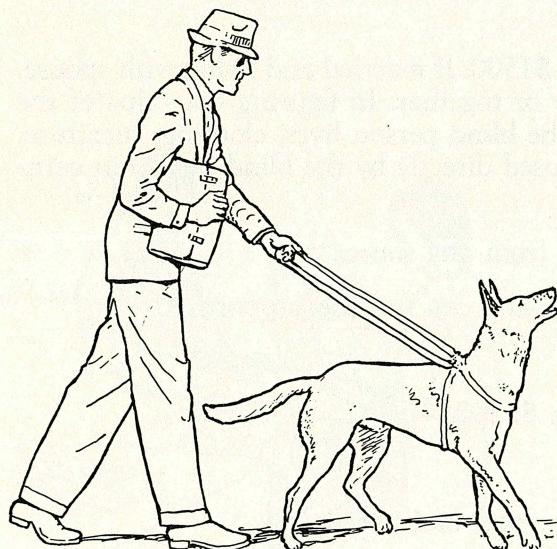
## **WHO IS ELIGIBLE?**

The person who:

- is 18 years of age or older
- has lived in the state for five years or more out of the past nine years before application, including the year immediately prior to application
- has not given away, sold, or transferred real or personal property within the past three years unless he received fair and valuable consideration
- is single and does not own personal property worth more than \$1500. If married and living with spouse, they do not own property worth more than \$2500 individually or together. In figuring the value of the property, the following is not considered: the home in which the blind person lives, clothing, furniture, household equipment, personal jewelry, or any other property used directly by the blind person in earning a living
- or his sighted spouse does not receive \$3000 income per year from any source
- does not have parents living in Missouri, nor a sighted spouse who can provide support
- does not publicly solicit alms
- is determined to be blind as defined by law (vision less than 5/200)
- is not a resident of a public, private, or endowed institution
- is in need of assistance because there is insufficient income to meet basic needs.

## **BLIND PENSIONS**

The Blind Pension program, established in 1921, is a program financed entirely by state funds. This program provides assistance for some blind persons who do not qualify under the Aid to the Blind law. Each eligible person receives \$75 a month.



## **WHO IS ELIGIBLE?**

The person who:

- is 18 years of age or older
- has lived in the state for the ten years immediately prior to the date of application. However, if a person loses his sight while living in the state, and continues to live in the state, the residence requirement is waived
- has not given away, sold, or transferred real or personal property in order to be eligible for Blind Pension
- is single, or married and living with spouse and does not own real or personal property worth more than \$10,000.
- or his sighted spouse does not receive \$3000 income per year from any source
- has no parent(s) living in Missouri who can provide support
- does not publicly solicit alms
- is determined to be totally blind as defined by law (no more than light perception)
- is found to be ineligible for Aid to the Blind
- is willing to have medical treatment or an operation to cure his blindness, unless he is 75 years old or more
- is not a resident of a public, private, or endowed institution
- is of good moral character.

## **VENDOR PAYMENT PLAN FOR HOSPITAL CARE**

The 70th General Assembly enacted legislation in 1959, which provides in-patient hospital care for persons receiving public assistance, except those receiving Aid to the Blind and Blind Pension. Hospital care is limited by regulation to 14 days per admission, with no restrictions on the number of admissions per year. Payments are made by the Division directly to hospitals on behalf of the persons receiving care. The hospital payment covers all services usually provided in a hospital, but does not include physicians fees.

### **WHO IS ELIGIBLE?**

The person who:

- is a recipient of public assistance, that is: Aid to Dependent Children, Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled, General Relief, or Old Age Assistance
- is unable to provide such care in whole or in part
- receives in-patient hospital care
- requires hospitalization for "serious illness or injury for which out-patient care will not suffice, provided, however, that such hospitalization shall not include those persons admitted to a hospital for elective surgery, diagnostic studies, and chronic conditions"
- is hospitalized in a hospital licensed by the Missouri Division of Health or, if in another state, in a hospital licensed by the appropriate authority in that state

## **VENDOR PAYMENT PLAN FOR DRUGS AND DENTAL CARE**

The 72nd General Assembly enacted legislation which became effective October 13, 1963, and which provides that payment can be made by the Division of Welfare for certain dental care, drugs, and medicines as authorized by the Division.

### **WHO IS ELIGIBLE?**

The person who:

- is a recipient of Old Age Assistance or Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled
- is unable to provide such care in whole or in part
- has one of the illnesses specifically listed by the Division in a regulation, and for which his physician prescribes one of the drugs or medicines which is also specifically listed in the regulation
- for dental care, has one of the needs as listed by the Division in a regulation.



## CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

There were 1,459,121 children, under eighteen years of age, in Missouri according to the 1960 Census. One out of every 100 children received Child Welfare Services during the 1962-1963 fiscal year.

These are children in all economic classes, including the financially deprived and the emotionally deprived.

These are children who are neglected or abused, and whose parents need social casework services toward changing their circumstances or behavior for the sake of their children.

These are children who must be placed in foster family care as a result of Juvenile Court action.

These are children who suffer from severe emotional problems and are in need of treatment in their own homes, foster family homes, or specialized institutions.

These are children who are handicapped physically and/or mentally, and whose parents are in need of help in care of their children, and in finding community resources to treat them.

These are children of unmarried parents, whose parents need counselling services toward rehabilitation so that they can become constructive members of our society.

These are children of unmarried parents who need placement in foster family care or adoption.

These are children for whom the juvenile court has terminated parental rights, after the parents receive close and consecutive casework service toward constructive change.

These are children in need of permanent family homes through adoption.

### **Services Provided By Child Welfare Staff**

Gives casework services to parents of neglected children.

Places children, committed by the Juvenile Court, in foster family homes.

Recruits, studies, evaluates, and licenses foster family and adoptive homes.

Places children in day care facilities.

Supervises all children in placement.

Counsels unmarried parents.

Places children whose parental rights are terminated in adoptive homes.

Counsels and provides community resources to parents of children with emotional problems, or physical or mental handicaps.

Gives service to all dependent and neglected children in inter-state placement.

Licenses children's institutions and agencies and day care facilities.

In fifty percent of the counties, County Courts share with the State and Federal governments in the cost of maintaining one or more Child Welfare Workers giving services to these children.

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## **ADDITIONAL WELFARE SERVICES**

In addition to administering the programs and services already described, the Division staff provides the following services:

- cooperates with, and makes referral to other health and welfare agencies, such as, helps families get medical care, and refers families to other agencies for services the Division does not provide
- cooperates with public and private health and welfare agencies in other states in serving families who are in need, such as, making social investigations, and answering correspondence
- serves on committees and advisory groups to share in planning and knowledge for improving family and community resources
- reports program activities to the community by news media and personal presentation
- cooperates with schools of social work in recruiting and training personnel to meet the growing need of social services
- assumes assigned responsibility for civil defense welfare services.

The 71st General Assembly of Missouri, in 1961, enacted a law authorizing the Division "to provide appropriate public welfare services to parents, safeguard and protect the social well being and general well being of children and to help maintain and strengthen family life, and to provide such public welfare services to aid needy persons who can be so helped to become self-supporting or capable of self-care." The Federal Social Security Act was amended in 1962 for the purpose of "improvement in services to prevent or reduce dependency." The 1962 amendments also authorized the Secretary of the U. S. Department Of Health, Education And Welfare to "prescribe" and "specify" such areas of services. These are:

#### In Aid to Dependent Children Families

- Unmarried parents and their children with specified problems
- Families disrupted by desertion or impending desertion
- Families with adults with potentials for self-support
- Children in need of protection
- Children with special problems (such as health, education and employment)

#### In Old Age Assistance, Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled, and Aid to the Blind Cases

- Aged and disabled individuals in need of protection
- Aged and disabled individuals requiring services to remain in or return to their own homes or communities
- Blind and other disabled individuals with potentials for self-support in whole or in part

## **SERVICES FOR THE BLIND**

**Vocational Rehabilitation For The Blind.** This program is designed to enable a blind person to engage in gainful employment suited to his abilities and needs. Any person is eligible for this service who is a resident of Missouri, sixteen years of age or older, blind (have vision 20/200 or less, or a visual field of 20° or less), or has a progressive eye disease which leads to blindness, and who demonstrates that he can be expected to engage in gainful employment after the necessary services are provided.

**Home Teaching For The Blind.** A staff of home teachers (who are themselves blind) offer services in the homes of blind people which are designed to help them achieve the necessary skills and make the necessary adjustments so as to live a full life in a sighted world. Their services involve such things as teaching braille and typing, giving instruction in daily living activities such as personal grooming, shopping, cooking, house cleaning, doing the laundry, caring for children, dialing the telephone, threading needles, identifying clothing and currency, and many other things a person has to learn to do without sight.

**Prevention Of Blindness.** This service is for persons who cannot afford to pay for medical care for their eyes. An ophthalmologist makes a complete examination and any treatment needed to prevent or cure blindness is given. Local clinics are held in many areas in the state for the convenience of the people referred for this service. Persons of any age, who have eye trouble, and who cannot pay for medical care, may be referred to the county welfare office.

**Services To Blind Children.** Services are provided to blind children and their parents through individual counseling, providing literature on the needs of blind children and how to meet them, and by helping parents avail themselves of other resources which will assist them in dealing with their problems. The purpose of this service is to help blind children prepare to live normal lives in a sighted world. The service is available to any citizen of Missouri.

## **HOW THE PROGRAMS ARE FINANCED**

Money to finance the programs administered by the Division is provided by Federal, state, and local sources. At the Federal level, funds are appropriated by Congress. At the state level, funds are appropriated by the Missouri General Assembly. The funds appropriated at both the Federal and state levels are for specific purposes and cannot be used except for the program for which they are appropriated.

Federal funds are available to the Division for: Aid to the Blind, Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled, Aid to Dependent Children, Old Age Assistance, Child Welfare Services, services to the blind, and administration. In addition, the General Assembly appropriates funds for the Blind Pension and General Relief programs financed entirely with state funds.

At the local level, some county courts, townships, and cities provide funds to help meet administrative expenses of the county offices. In addition, some counties provide additional funds for special purposes, such as supplementing assistance grants for persons in licensed nursing homes, paying for medical and dental care, and paying for boarding care for children placed in foster homes.

Expenditures of the Division are made by means of checks signed by the State Treasurer. The accounting for all expenditures chargeable to the programs administered by the Division is the responsibility of the Division. Auditors of the Federal Department of Health, Education, and Welfare maintain a constant audit of the entire operation involving Federal funds.

The accompanying charts, "The Welfare Dollar" and "Expenditure by Source of Funds" help convey how the programs of the Division are financed. The second chart does not show total expenditures from local funds since some local units of government expend funds independently for health and welfare purposes over which the Division has no control.

# *THE WELFARE DOLLAR*

*For The Fiscal Year*

*July 1962 - June 1963*

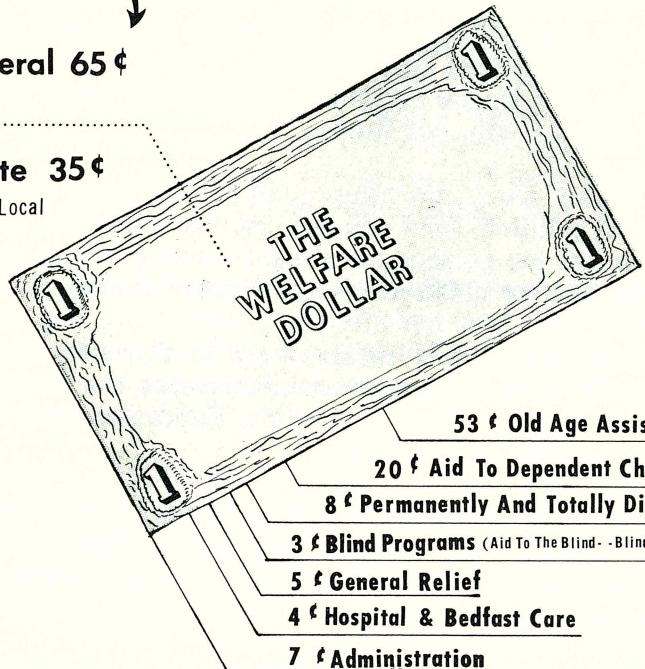
Came From

Federal 65¢

Was Spent For

State 35¢

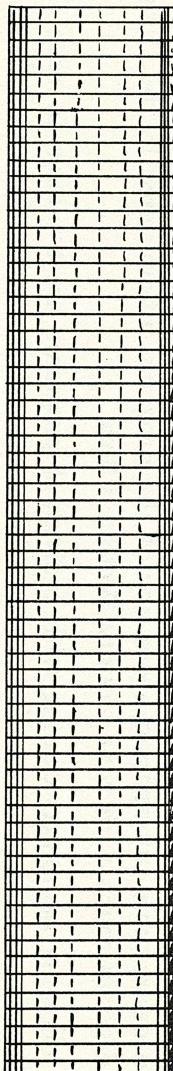
& Local



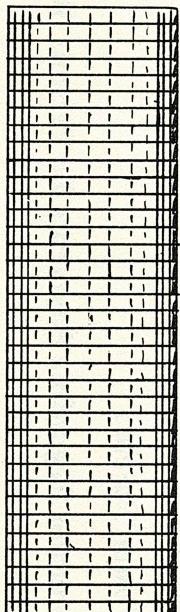
# EXPENDITURE BY SOURCE OF FUNDS

(FOR FISCAL YEAR 1962 - 1963)

FEDERAL 65.0 %



STATE 34.8 %



LOCAL 0.2 %

## **WHERE TO SECURE FURTHER INFORMATION**

If you desire more information about any of the programs administered by the Division of Welfare, you should get in touch with your County Welfare Office.

The following pamphlets dealing with individual programs are available in each County Welfare Office. They are written primarily for persons desiring to make application, and those receiving assistance or services administered by the Division.

- *Aid To The Blind In Missouri*
- *Assistance For Needy Children In Missouri*
- *For Foster Parents*
- *Information Regarding Payments To Persons Who Are Completely Bedfast And Totally Disabled*
- *Information Regarding Vendor Payment Plan For Drugs And Dental Care*
- *Old Age Assistance In Missouri*
- *Permanent And Total Disability Assistance In Missouri*
- *Services For The Blind In Missouri*

## **NOTES**

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*“Public welfare, in short, must be more than a salvage operation, picking up the debris from the wreckage of human lives. Its emphasis must be directed increasingly toward prevention and rehabilitation — on reducing not only the long-range cost in budgetary terms but the long-range cost in human terms as well. Poverty weakens individuals and nations. Sounder public welfare policies will benefit the Nation, its economy, its morale, and, most importantly, its people.”*

John F. Kennedy  
35th President of the United States

Art work by Charles Craver, Missouri Division of Health.

Photo of State Capitol, Missouri Division of Commerce and Industrial Development.

